Benefits to women defence officers

1537. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cabinet had cleared a policy on 4th of August, 2005 to bring all women defence officers under the SSC which gives the women officers option to leave after ten years or get absorbed and avail equal rank and pay as their male counterparts for four more years but it has not been implemented till now;

(b) whether delay in implementing the decision has created great resentment among the women officers;

(c) whether the Defence Minister in the month of June, 2006, issued orders for its immediate implementation; and

(d) what were the other benefits the Ministry has provided to women officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) As per a decision taken by the Government on 4th August, 2005, orders have already been issued giving women officers in Short Service Commission (SSC) a tenure of 14 years with the option to leave the Army after 10 years. Women officers avail rank and pay at par with similarly placed male counterparts in SSC. Similar provisions exist in Navy and Air Force.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Both women and men officers appointed in SSC in the Army will be eligible to get Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel rank after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively.

Impact of CBI raids on India-Israel defence deals

1538. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI raids in connection with the deal for Barak Missile System with Israel during the then Defence Minister's tenure has seriously affected the ongoing defence deals with Israel;

(b) whether Israel had emerged as the second biggest defence partner of India after Russia, during the last 15 years and these relations were strengthened in the wake of the Kargil war in 1999; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to see that such raids in no way affect the defence deals with Israel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence equipment is being procured from Israel as from other nations according to Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006. In case, however, any credible information comes to light regarding any wrong doing in the contracts signed with anyfirm, suitable action would be taken according to the contractual provisions.

Casualties by land mines

†1539. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers, children and women who died and of those who became handicapped during explosion of land mines laid by the army to check infiltration into various border areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government would contemplate to take any measures for the safety of Indians from land mines;

(c) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The total fatal and non-fatal casualties due to landmine accidents during 2002—2005 were 16 and 82 respectively. There has been no fatal or non-fatal casualty in 2006. No land mines have been laid by the Army to check infiltration into various border areas during the last three years. However,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.